

SCI-TECH NEWS

12/49

The Official Bulletin of the
SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY GROUP
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

CHEMISTRY • PETROLEUM • ENGINEERING-AERONAUTICS • PUBLIC UTILITIES • PHARMACEUTICAL • METALS

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No. 4

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

Professional recognition of technical librarians is sometimes hard to achieve. Many of our members are careful to use the term "technical librarian" or "research librarian" in their signatures to add something to their professional dignity. However, we know of no better way to promote recognition than by co-operation with our respective scientific societies. Much has been done to bring to the attention of chemists, metallurgists and physicists the contribution of librarians in their fields through participation of our members in their activities. The American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Literature numbers over one hundred SLA Sci-Tech members among its 725 membership, and among the officers and committees are our Julian F. Smith, Executive Committee Member-at-large,

Thelma Hoffman, M. P. Doss and A. B. Johnson on the Program Committee, Julian Smith (Chairman) and M. P. Doss on the Nominating Committee, and Leora Straka, Chairman of the Membership Committee.

As our readers know, Meredith Wright and R. W. Kollar have been active participants on the Literature Classification Committee of the American Society for Metals. As reported elsewhere in this issue, 400 technical librarians are taking part in the survey of the Study of Physics Abstracting for the American Institute of Physics. These are good signs. As our professional clientele come to recognize us as colleagues in their own societies, we are enhancing both our personal reputations and that of the library profession. Can our readers report any incidences of co-operation with other professional societies than those mentioned?

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SCI-TECH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

New York — November 3, 1949

A dozen members of the Group Board met during the Association Advisory Council meeting at the Hotel Statler and discussed the following.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report showed that the budget allotted to the Group from Headquarters for the fiscal year 1949-50 is \$283, of which \$75 has been spent for the abstracts of the June business meeting and questionnaire mailed to all Group members in September.

Section reports made at this time, are covered on another page under "Section and Project Activities." A request for a new Section of Mathematics and Physics was entered and will be taken up at the convention if there is sufficient response.

The Nominating Committee chairman reported that very few suggestions had come from the membership but that a slate would be ready for ballots to be sent out by March 15. The floor is still open for suggested nominations. It was thought that a secret ballot (requiring two envelopes) is not necessary.

The Convention Program Committee would like to know what the members want most and what they think of the following suggestions which have been made. The Metals and Pharmaceutical Sections have tentative plans for a program on associations and their services in the respective fields. Another thought is to have discussion groups for administration problems, such as personnel, time studies, job evaluation, manual preparation, reporting to management, and salary schedules. A salary survey was suggested. If it is agreeable to the Association Professional Activities Committee, which is not planning a survey this year, it could be done at the time of the ballot mailing. Volunteers for the committee will be welcome. Another convention program suggestion was a survey in other Sections similar to the one by Dr. A. B. Johnson for the Petroleum Section last June.

The Group Structure Committee reported that correspondence with past chairmen is now going on. The Committee will be requested to draw up a tentative procedures manual from the results.

The Bibliography Pool is still active at the Battelle Memorial Institute and since Mr. Hopp left, in charge of Miss Welch, reference librarian. Any possible change is awaiting the appointment of a new head librarian.

In connection with membership, the results of the September questionnaire have not been entirely satisfactory and the committee is doing some follow-up work. The punched card file on the membership is now practically complete. A Group Directory was suggested, but it was thought better to try to have the next revision of the Association Directory coded for Chapter and Group affiliations. On the question of Section elections it was thought that the general procedure of the Group should be followed.

Discussion of the Sci-Tech Manual centered around sales possibilities and the form of publication. The Board voted to ask the Association Publications Board for an advance of \$40 to make a post-card survey to determine potential sales. (This request was later refused by the Executive Board, because the Manual is not completed). The suggestion was made of a loose-leaf form of publication.

On other miscellaneous business discussed, no decisions were reached.

Notes on Association Advisory Council Meeting

Recommendation to change name "Group" to "Division" was rejected.

Recommendation to allow a Group to charge a fee for affiliation was rejected by Constitution Committee as being impossible if one is allowed to affiliate with but one Group. (Must one affiliate—Ed.)

The Sci-Tech chairman formally requested that Sci-Tech convention papers be released for publication if after 3 months the Association has no definite plans for publishing them within the year.

West Coast proposal for a mail ballot on constitution revision rejected as being impractical although theoretically democratic.

The chairman urges you to obtain a copy of proposed Constitution changes (write to Headquarters if none at hand) and to send your ideas to the Committee.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

Although we have been celebrating the 40th anniversary of SLA all this year, the birthday is actually in November. Just too late for our last issue the following suggestion reached us through the Group Liaison Officer.

The Professional Literature Committee (Chairman: Miss Helen Baierle, Nuodex Products Co., Elizabeth F, N. J.) is attempting to build up a professional library at Headquarters. Do you have any publications in the field of library science or on same in your subject field which would be helpful to others if available in the SLA library? If so, it has been suggested that an autographed copy would be an appropriate birthday present to SLA. Drop a card to the Literature Committee chairman first with your offer, so that too much duplication can be avoided.

Last call for 1950 convention papers. Names of all speakers and titles of all papers should be in the hands of your Section Chairman and the Sci-Tech Program Chairman by January 1, 1950. Brief abstracts should be sent to the editor, SCI-TECH NEWS, by February 15, 1950, deadline for our next issue. Also **last call for nomination suggestions** for Sci-Tech officers. Send to Anne Nicholson, Penn. Salt Mfg. Co., Chestnut Hill P. O. Box 4388, Philadelphia 18.

PHYSICS ABSTRACTING STUDY NEARING COMPLETION

The Study of Physics Abstracting being conducted by the American Institute of Physics under the direction of Dr. Dwight E. Gray at the National Research Council, and described in the September issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, is now nearing completion. It is expected that the final report and lists of major physics journals and of abstracting and indexing services of physics interest will be published early in 1950 in one of the journals of the American Institute of Physics.

Meanwhile, we are privileged to have a preview of the results, based on late word from the director and an analysis of the early returns from the questionnaires. In answer to the question, "How extensive is the field of physics periodical literature", over 900 titles have been listed as having some material of physics interest, and about 65 have been found to contain 90 to 100% physics articles. The complete lists will probably be published in pamphlet form for sale, including the publication data on the journals, where abstracted and percentage of physics papers in 1948 issues.

The second question was, "What existing abstracting and indexing services deal wholly or partially with material of physics interest?" Over 100 of these services are to be listed with description of field, size, publication and subscription data. The tentative results of the opinion poll, to cover 2000 physicists and 400 technical librarians, showed the following ranking of the abstract services by the **physicists** (with percent who used each appreciably): **PHYSICS ABSTRACTS** (Sci. Abs., Sect. A) (83); **CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS** (38); **NUCLEAR SCIENCE ABSTRACTS** (26); **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ABSTRACTS** (Sci. Abs., Sect. B) (23); **PHYSIKALISCHE BERICHTE** (11). On the other hand, the **technical librarians** rated the following as the first five: **CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS** (84); **PHYSICS ABSTRACTS** (83); **ENGINEERING INDEX** (59); **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ABSTRACTS** (55); **APPLIED MECHANICS REVIEWS** (47).

The majority of both the physicists and librarians believe that **PHYSICS ABSTRACTS** rates "good" at present in over-all effectiveness. However, they list in order of importance for the ideal abstracting service: (1) wide coverage of technical journals, (2) prompt publication of abstracts, (3) abstracting by technical experts in the various subject fields, (4) issuance of extensive periodic and cumulative indexes.

On the question of "indicative" versus "informative" abstracts, 16% of the physicists prefer the former, 40% prefer indicative only if they are substantially cheaper and 44% prefer informative even at increased cost. In a separate question for the librarians the majority believed it desirable to incorporate the following features in a physics abstracting service: author list with each issue, list of periodicals covered with last issue of each volume, union list symbols of rare titles to facilitate inter-library loans, number with each entry for indexing.

The stated objective of this project, which will soon be achieved, is to obtain information upon which the Joint Committee on Abstracting of the American Physical Society and the Institute can base, first, an evaluation of existing physics abstracting and, second, sound and realistic recommendations for its improvement.

IMPORTANT

Your subscription expires with this issue. All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis, so 1950 renewals are now due. In this year of rising subscription rates it should come as no surprise that we cannot reduce our \$1.50 rate as hoped. We just about broke even this year and could not take a chance on gaining enough additional subscriptions at a lower rate to remain solvent another year. **Ignore statement enclosed with this issue if you have already renewed. Ignore postcard being sent to all Sci-Tech members if you renew with enclosed statement.**

ACS DIVISION OF CHEMICAL LITERATURE

Atlantic City, September 19-21, 1949.

This Division, the "lusty 'baby'" of the American Chemical Society, was proud to report that without solicitation it had at the opening of the week's convention 725 members (over 100 are also SLA members—Ed.). Its chief interest is in the study and facilitation of the exchange of chemical information, or, as the bylaws say, "documentation". The literature of chemistry competes with legal literature for the distinction of being the best controlled bibliographically of any of the subject fields. In view of this fact, it seems highly significant for the study of overall problems of bibliographical control that chemists are as concerned, as the work of this Division indicates they are, with improving facilities for finding the information they need.

The program was devoted to two large aspects of bibliographical problems: the acquisition and use of foreign chemical literature, and the development and use of machine techniques for chemical documentation. Several papers were presented dealing with chemical literature in foreign languages, with particular emphasis upon the difficulty of learning scientific and technical Russian and of securing Russian publications. The second offered more in the way of information and discussion of the development of new equipment for handling statistical and other numerical data than it did on the use of the equipment for storing and locating scientific literature *per se*. No new developments were noted in the use of marginal punched or notched cards (McBee Keysort, for example), either in classification, indexing or coding methods. Dr. Cuthbert C. Hurd of IBM described several improved and some wholly new machines developed by his firm. The transition from electromagnetic relays to electronic operations for IBM equipment, with increases in speed, flexibility and reliability, is noteworthy. Mr. Ralph Shaw, Librarian of the Department of Agriculture, described the Microfilm Rapid Selector (see the *Library Journal* 74.1119-20, August 1949) and invited inspection at his library. Three papers were given on electronic calculators or computers, which are designed and already employed in several places to process masses of mathematical data through operations far too complex or extensive to be undertaken by individuals. Dr. Howard H. Aiken, of the Computation Laboratory, Harvard University, gave a particularly lucid and brief account of the basic principles of these machines and noted the superiority of magnetic tape over other existing media for recording, storage and easy recovery of information.

The papers and discussion revealed that machines are in existence or within the range of practical

possibilities in the near future for storing and rapidly finding any information either in digital or alphabetic components, or in infinite combinations of these components, but that the potentialities of these machines cannot be realized for bibliographical purposes because, first and foremost, those whom the machines can serve do not know exactly what they want the machines to do; and secondly, they do not know how to make the machines do it.

As for "making the machine do the scholars' or librarians' bidding," it has become a cliché that one gets out of the machine only as much as is put in. The meeting acknowledged the urgency of research on methods and systems of coding based on yet-to-be obtained knowledge of the techniques of subject matter analysis. However, no one — chemist, librarian, or engineer — stepped forward to take the responsibility for doing the job. Dr. Aiken stated that there is a real need for cooperative thinking and research among scientists, bibliographers and the builders of such equipment for the solution of this problem. It is to be hoped that the Division will pursue this suggestion and constitute a committee for such a purpose.

In reference to the spelling out of what it is that scientists and librarians want the machines to do, it was pointed out by Dr. Jay W. Forrester, of the Servomechanisms Laboratory of M.I.T., that an imperative need is for basic research on the theory of indexing and abstracting scientific literature. He estimated that at least ten years of intensive research would be required to learn what the best techniques of indexing and abstracting are. Such research in turn rests upon basic research in how data are used by scientists, another fertile territory for exploration.

It was encouraging to hear from Dr. J. W. Perry of M.I.T., who was the able chairman of the meetings, that the International Union of Chemists which met in Amsterdam earlier in the month drew up the desiderata of an ideal code for use with standardized nomenclature for organic and inorganic compounds. The Union will now ask all chemists who have worked out codes to submit them. It will send each codifier a list of one-thousand compounds to be coded by his scheme and sent in with full explanation of the application of the code. Out of these reports the Union hopes to be able to formulate a code near its ideal.

At the first general session of the American Chemical Society on Monday evening, Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, editor of the Society's *Journal*, was awarded the Priestley Medal. His address of acceptance was devoted to methods of best promoting the publication of chemical literature. After tracing the development of the publishing of chemical literature, he reported that by the first of August this year more papers had been submitted to the Society for publication than for the whole of 1948. Confronting this avalanche, he rejected the idea of raising the dues of the Society to enable publishing the papers; increasing rates to advertisers; seeking government subsidy; publishing **Chemical Abstracts** in sections or charging authors or their employers for publishing their papers. He strongly advocated that the chemical industries together support the publication of **Chemical Abstracts** since they are the chief beneficiaries and have the funds.

—LC INFORMATION BULLETIN, Sept. 27-Oct. 3

WHAT SCI-TECH MEMBERS ARE DOING IN —

Kansas City Chapter

The October meeting of the Chapter consisted of participation in the annual convention of the Missouri Library Association at Joplin, Mo. The special library section of the state association met on October 21 and went on a tour of the Spencer Chemical Co. plant (Jayhawk Ordnance Works during the War) in nearby Pittsburg, Kansas. Mr. E. J. McMillan of the company's development department arranged and conducted the tour, which of course featured the library.

Having completed its first project, a Directory, this young Chapter has as its goal this season a Union List of holdings in the Chapter, under the direction of Miss Virginia Fansher and Miss Mary Frances Antrim of Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville, Okla.

Louisiana Chapter

At the general meeting in Baton Rouge on October 29, before the luncheon and meeting addressed by Dr. Harvey Brown, retired librarian of Iowa State College, seven members of the Chapter Science-Technology Group got together for an hour to discuss materials and methods used in their libraries. They exchanged not only ideas but also various forms, cards, and other "short cuts" that help to simplify work. Additional participants were gained for the periodicals exchange conducted by the Group and it is hoped to add other new members in the Texas Chapter, beside those who were former members of the Louisiana Chapter.

St. Louis Chapter

Following up on the language classes at the Anheuser-Busch Library mentioned in our last issue — this season "Budweiser University" has really expanded. Half-hour classes are being conducted three noons weekly in first and second year German and Russian, and first year French, as well as a weekly 50-minute graduate-level lecture course in biochemistry. The registration was such that a second section was required in first year German and French and one section is even meeting after working hours from 5 to 5:30.

As before, the instructors are all specialists in the organization itself and there is no cost to the registrants except for their textbooks. The biochemistry course is laid out for the season to June 1950 with one to 3 lectures on each phase of the subject, such as carbohydrate metabolism, enzymes, fermentation, etc., by experts in the particular field.

Our congratulations to Mrs. V. Hendrickson, the librarian, who has made such a success of this valuable addition to library service, unique as far as we know in like circumstances.

Allen Ring was visiting lecturer last month for a session of the class in Chemical Literature at St. Louis University. The group of 45 chemistry seniors was given practical tips on the use of chemical literature in industrial libraries.

Did you know that SCI-TECH NEWS goes three-quarters of the way around the world? In addition to our many Canadian neighbors, we have subscribers in Holland, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand and Batavia, Java, Indonesia.

Pittsburgh Chapter

Pittsburgh has an active Science-Technology Group and holds three meetings a year in addition to the regular Chapter meetings.

The first Group meeting this year was a joint meeting with the Metals Section, SLA. They were having a two-day Regional Conference in Pittsburgh October 27-28. The joint meeting was held in the Lecture Room of Mellon Institute on the evening of October 27. The program consisted of a panel discussion on "Metallurgical Literature Searching Methods", moderated by Thomas Martinke, Technology Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Members of the panel were: Frederica Weitlauf, Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton, Ohio; Mrs. Miriam Landuyt, Caterpillar Tractor Co., Peoria, Illinois; Mrs. Vivian MacDonald, Aluminum Company of America, New Kensington, Pa., and Morris Schrero, Technology Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The summary can be given in Tom Martinke's words from his report, "each speaker briefly outlined resources and methods used in his library, after which members of the audience joined in with suggestions on useful lines of attack. Much of the talk centered on 'how to help the research worker help himself' and on the use and training of library personnel who lack a technical background. Miss Weitlauf said she had come with the hope of learning some time-saving procedures in searching, whereupon Mr. Schrero re-told Mr. McClelland's story of the person who asked for a 'short cut' to literature searching and was told 'Pick the book with the right answer!'"

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 1950 and is an open dinner meeting sponsored and arranged by the Science-Technology Group. The program is to be a symposium on the subject "What I Expect From My Librarian" with five speakers representing five different fields, such as, scientific education, food research, industrial coal analysis, banking and medicine.

Western New York Chapter

Distances in this predominantly Sci-Tech Chapter apparently mean no more than to the Texans — president (Alice Neil of General Electric) in western Schenectady, October meeting in Rochester and previous meeting, a regional conference in Montreal. On October 29 at the Rundel Library in Rochester a methods meeting on "Work Simplification" was held. The exhibit on this subject from the Los Angeles convention was on display and some 15 members gave short talks on their methods. Subjects included "Special Subject Classification Schemes", "Subject Heading Lists", "Methods of Handling Patents", "Photostat Negatives", "Circulating Abstracts", "Company Manual for Technical Report Writing", and many others.

Earlier in the fall 30 chapter members attended the Third Regional Conference in Montreal. A Friday afternoon general session was addressed by several people of Canadian national importance. On Saturday morning there were four papers by representatives of the participating Chapters. Later in the day those present were guests of His Worship, The Mayor of Montreal at a reception in the Montreal Botanical Gardens.

Cleveland Chapter

How to locate information quickly and inexpensively will be the theme of a series of Methods Meetings planned by the Cleveland Chapter. According to Mary Frances Myers, chairman of the Education Committee, the first meeting on December 6 is called "It Must Be Somewhere," and will include a movie by Remington-Rand on filing in general. The second meeting of the series will be a panel discussion on "It Must Be Somewhere — in Cleveland." The speakers will include Mildred Stewart, head of the Sci. and Tech. Dept. of the Cleveland Public Library and Zelda Milner of the U. S. Dept. of Commerce. On March 7 another panel group, including Elizabeth Barrett and Mary Frances Pinches of Case School of Applied Science and Mary Evelyn Crookston of Meldrum and Fewsmith, will discuss "It Must Be Somewhere — Cheap."

The radio committee of the Cleveland Section of the American Chemical Society includes three of our members: Elias Jones (Ferro Enamel Corp.), chairman; Cornelia Williams (B. F. Goodrich Chem. Co.); and Jean Almas (Harshaw Chem. Co.). The Section broadcasts every Wednesday at 5:45 P.M. over Station WEWS.

Again this year Miss Lois Brock, Research Librarian at the General Tire and Rubber Co., of Akron, Ohio, is to be joint author of a series of papers on "Advances in Rubber." Last year she was joint author of a series of articles which appeared in the January, February, March, and April 1949 issues of *India Rubber World*. Beginning with the January 1950 issue a similar series will be published on "Advances in Rubber, 1948-1949."

Boston Chapter

This fall there is definite progress reported on the organization of a Sci-Tech Group here. Under the chairmanship of Miss Margaret A. Firth of United Shoe Machinery Corp., a preliminary meeting was held by a nucleus of members early in October, and on November 8 the whole Group got together for the first meeting. Plans are to have a luncheon meeting about every two months.

Things we wish we had thought of first: — the section headings in INDUSTRIAL QUALITY CONTROL NEWS SUPPLEMENT. Past events and meetings come under "... But not forgotten"; plans for coming events, under "... Cast their shadows before"; projects, continuation courses, etc., "As ye sow ..." and new appointments and officers of chapters, "For many are called but few are ..."

An idea for spicing up a mimeographed bulletin — all headlines in handwriting — seen in *SHOW-ME LIBRARIES*, put out by the Missouri State Library. Also a blank map of the state with little notes at locations where the month's news happened.

After serving as librarian of Abbott Laboratories since 1925, Miss Edith Joannes has relinquished some of her duties and has turned over the reins as librarian to Mr. Walter A. Southern. Miss Joannes will remain on the staff as associate librarian. Mr. Southern, an A. B. of Wisconsin, 1942 and A. B. L. S. of Michigan, 1943, comes to Abbott from the Dearborn Chemical Co. of Chicago, where he was research librarian.

SECTION AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Metals Section

Congratulations to this new Section for the first Sci-Tech Section Bulletin. Under the acting chairman, John Milek, the number one Bulletin and a Directory of the Section members were issued in September. On October 27-28 during the Metals Exposition in Pittsburgh the Section held a two-day meeting at the Mellon Institute.

With a total registration of 18 members, the Conference started on the morning of the 27th with a business meeting. It was voted that Mr. Milek continue as temporary chairman until a formal election can be held at the 1950 convention. Miss Elizabeth Fry was elected as temporary Secretary-Treasurer. A nominating committee headed by Mrs. Miriam Landuyt (Caterpillar Tractor Co., Peoria, Ill.) was appointed to present a slate for the 1950 convention. Mrs. Margaret Fuller was appointed Publicity Chairman.

Tentative plans for the convention are to build a program around the services and information offered by the various metals associations, hoping to obtain representatives from 3 or 4 important metals associations to conduct a symposium.

On the afternoon program Vivian MacDonald spoke on "Light Metals Classification" and Marjorie Hyslop spoke on the ASM Classification. The evening meeting with the Pittsburgh Chapter Sci-Tech Group is reported under Chapter news on another page. Meetings on the second day included a talk by John Milek on "Foreign Metallurgical Services" and one on "Patent Classification" by Emory C. Skarshaug. Also on the program were tours of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and of the Mellon Institute.

Translations and Translators Project

Although this is now a project of the whole Association we feel that it is worth reporting since it was our baby until June of this year.

The report on the translations index shows for the period of June through October: requests for titles 254; found 82; cards added to file 379. The total number of titles now in the index is over 13,000. However, the committee still feels that the project is far from reaching its potential possibility of service, due to lack of co-operation by the majority of the SLA members. Many librarians are co-operating freely and wholeheartedly (some to the extent of several hundred cards), but most refuse to contribute any material on the grounds that their company files are confidential. Where would the project be if those who have contributed to date had given the same excuse? After all, there are grapevines in industry and no worthwhile material is secret for long.

Originally the index was filed alphabetically by author. However, it has now been found more efficient to file by the name of the periodical, its volume and page. Patent translations are filed numerically by the name of the country. The question of reproducing the files is being considered at present but there are many difficulties other than the obvious one of cost. Many of the entries are labeled confidential (between the donor and the project chairman) and many are not completely identified as to page references.

The second part of this project, the Directory of Technical Translators, is progressing more satisfactorily. The press notices in various periodicals have brought many inquiries and over one hundred translators of about 80 languages are now on record. Cards are being typed for the various bibliographical centers which are to have the Directory.

To use either of these indexes inquiries should be sent with return envelope enclosed to Wayne A. Kalenich, Southwest Research Institute, P. O. Box 2296, San Antonio 6, Tex.

Sci-Tech Manual

This long awaited project is now nearing completion. It is hoped to have all the writing done by the end of this year and indexing and other preparations ready for spring publication. Of the 12 Chapters, 7 are in the final typing stage, 2 are being written and 3 are being revised.

The tentative chapter titles are as follows: Science-Technology Libraries; Their Origin and Function; Staff, Duties and Qualifications; Budget; Physical Layout and Equipment; Selection and Ordering of Books and Miscellaneous Publications; Selection and Ordering of Periodicals and Other Subscription Services; Circulation of Books and Periodicals; Classification and Cataloging of Books and Periodicals; Indexing and Filing of Miscellaneous Materials; The Library Bulletin; The Literature of Science and How to Approach It; Publicity.

FLASH

Numerical Index to PB Reports is off the press and on sale (see SCI-TECH NEWS Mar., 1949, p. 4; May 1949, p. 4). Price \$10. Send orders to SLA, 31 E. 10th St., New York 3.

CURRENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The principles and possibilities of diazo-copying processes. JOURNAL DOCUMENTATION 5(1): 1-11 (June 1949) B. de Gorter

Traces the development of this technology and describes the new machines developed by Van der Grinten. One special machine automatically reproduces abstracts on folded 3x5 index slips at the rate of up to 1800 per hour. Future developments will result in simplifications and in much wider application of the process, it is hoped.

International conference on science abstracting. Unesco House, Paris, June 20-25, 1949. REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION 16(3): 75-79 (1949)

Its findings were expressed in these recommendations: (1) extension of abstracting and indexing to agriculture, applied biology, apparatus and equipment, (2) cooperation among abstracting services, (3) standardization of terminology and nomenclature, (4) preparation and use of synopses of articles in scientific journals, (5) issuance of listings of abstracting services, and of periodicals abstracted, (6) coordination at international level with respect to abstracting in chemistry, physics, and agriculture, (7) creation of national or regional committees on science abstracting to assure that scientific publications of their regions are adequately listed and abstracted, (8) support development of a standardized classification and a standardized international coding for use with mechanical or electrical devices for the selection of documents.

THE ART AND TECHNIQUE OF BOOK REVIEWING

1—**Signing book reviews.** ASLIB PROCEEDINGS 1(2):119-124 (Aug. 1949) H. A. Clegy

As technical and scientific literature becomes more specialized, the reviewer's name is a necessary piece of information serving as a guarantee or a warning. With signed reviews both editor and reviewer have a heightened sense of responsibility to author of the book and to the reader of the journal.

2—**Reviewing of scientific and technical books.** ASLIB PROCEEDINGS 1(2):125-127 (Aug. 1949) R. Brightman

The main purpose of the review is to assess the value of the book as a technical tool. Reader may reasonably expect in a review a clear account of what the book is about, indicating the scope of the book, how the subject is covered, the class of reader for whom it is intended. It is the reviewer's responsibility to assess the book's value in presentation and treatment, and to indicate how the value of the book might be improved.

3—**Book reviews and the librarian.** ASLIB PROCEEDINGS 1(2):128-133 (Aug. 1949) R. L. Collision

The review, to be useful, must appear before or on the day or week of publication. Actually there is a lapse of 3 to 9 months before book is reviewed adequately. A policy of cooperation between technical journals is suggested on the following lines (1) agreement on the standard desirable contents of a review and bibliographical details, (2) agree to restrict size of all reviews, (3) editors should agree to divide the field of minor publications, thus doubling amount of space for more specialized publications.

Press cuttings. ASLIB PROCEEDINGS 1(2): 105-112 (Aug. 1949) Eric J. C. Smythe.

The practice of the newspaper library is taken as a model for the librarian who must cover the full field of press clipping. *The Times* is chosen as the most reliable paper for news coverage. The procedure is as follows: (1) the librarian reads and marks all items for clipping, (2) junior clerk does cutting with a steel rule and mounts, (3) senior clerk classifies cuttings by subject, (4) senior clerk or responsible junior files clippings in chronological order in open folders in vertical file, (5) indexing is not necessary when current files are arranged in full alphabetic order by subject, (6) discarding best done at routine intervals; once a year is sufficient.

Application of punched cards to indexing rubber compounds. INDIA RUBBER WORLD 120:698-701, 709 (Sept. 1949) Kathleen S. Rostler

An information service has been set up by the Rubber Formulary to distribute data to subscribers. A system is described for filing rubber compounding tests by recording each compound on a marginally punched card. Top of card is devoted to indexing physical properties. Upper left hand corner of card used for classifying as to whether compound contains carbon black or not. Lower portion of right-hand edge of card devoted to type of rubber used in compound. A portion of the bottom edge of card is devoted to coding for compound number. Holes on the left and right, and some across the bottom are left free for specialized coding.

THUMBNAIL BOOK-LOOKS

Education for special librarianship by Herman H. Henkle. Discussion by Rose L. Vormelker. In: *Education for librarianship* ed. by Bernard Berelson. Chicago, ALA., 1949, pp 170-186.

Reviews the current status of curricula for special librarians. Drexel and Simmons conduct programs best designed for an intensive study of special library methods and administration. The most intensive and most closely integrated program is offered at Simmons College. The characteristics of special library service as defined by Morley and Moriarty are examined. In regard to the "subject specialist," Henkle says that undergraduate study does not make subject experts; only a PhD can qualify for the rank of expert. The undergraduate study gives familiarity, the PhD gives authority; and authority is required when librarians are depended upon for expert judgment. Some of the new developments affecting librarianship are reviewed.

In her Discussion, Vormelker insists that the special librarian must have detailed subject knowledge ability to adapt rules to fit special needs, and alertness to foresee needs, to seek new sources of information and to use resources to fullest extent. The immediate needs to further the education of special librarians are facilities for their training, experienced teachers and a textbook on the subject. **New Notation and enumeration system for organic compounds.** 2nd ed. By G. M. Dyson. London, Longmans, Green, 1949. 138 p. 10s 6d

The second edition is offered as a definitive proposal for an international system for delineating and enumerating organic structures. Its main use seems to be to code punched cards which can be automatically manipulated thus facilitating the sorting out of compounds with predetermined structural characteristics. The main principles of the original notation have been retained, but a major alteration is the mode of description of ring systems. Another major revision concerns the arrangement of symbols to facilitate manipulation of punched card data.

Library research. Chapter V. Records and publications. Chapter X. In: R. H. Griffith: "Practice of research in the chemical industries." London: Oxford, 1949, pp. 62-74, 130-142.

Chapter V is concerned with the library as a research facility. A discussion of the general arrangement of the library covers the following activities: 1) the search for existing knowledge on a given subject, 2) the preparation of special reports from existing sources, 3) the survey of current literature, 4) a watch on patents, 5) a knowledge of sources of special information and access to other libraries.

Recording the work of the research department is another important function and is discussed in Chapter X. The first part of this chapter is devoted to the indexing of records of experimental work, reports, correspondence. The second part covers the preparation and presentation of papers to societies and technical journals, of bulletins, books, and lectures.

Memo to editor for follow-up: The new copying camera developed by a photographer at Yale; called the CONTOURA; reported in Sunday N. Y. Times October 23 . . . UNESCO activities in the investigation of scientific literature; list of abstracting publications.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

In the September 1949 issue of SCI-TECH NEWS you have a special plea entitled "Join a Section". Though I can readily see your point of view, I should like to put in a word for a few of us who quite justifiably want the larger point of view, and who have found the minute sectioning of S.L.A. a real problem. When teaching library science, it seems necessary to keep in touch, as far as possible with the principal activities of all library organizations, and few really understand how difficult that procedure is when so much activity is carried out in small sections, and often not even reported in the more general organization unless as a casual item in an annual report.

For this reason, I hope that SCI-TECH NEWS will continue to abstract papers, describe progress, coming publications, and otherwise obscure activities of all six of the Science Technology sections.

Also, because of the type of non-specialized (except from the library science angle) materials I work with I find your current articles of interest extremely valuable. I hope very much you will continue this feature.

Helen M. Focke,
Associate Professor
Western Reserve University
School of Library Science

Editor's Note: SCI-TECH NEWS will continue, as it has always intended, to serve equally all the Sections and the Group members at large. To those whose interests definitely fall into one of the six Sections, we still say "Join a Section", since in a Group as large as ours we believe this is the best method of accomplishing results of benefit to the whole organization.

Rebuttal from New York Member (S-T-N, Mar. 1949, p. 6)

Dear Sir:

... As to publication of SCI-TECH NEWS: If you are not familiar with "Headlights" published monthly by the Electric Railroaders Association I suggest that you study the manner in which it is prepared and published and the costs thereof. Its front and rear pages consist of a photo-offset sheet printed on both sides. This allows for a rather elaborate masthead, a good quality of paper protecting the publication, pictures, plans, diagrams, etc., (lack of these latter being one of the greatest weaknesses of SLA publications) and gives a very pleasing appearance to the publication. The inner sheets are mimeographed at Headquarters; this results in low cost and allows current news to be included. Addressing is done at Headquarters using an inexpensive addressing machine; plates are marked and/or filed so that proper groups can be selected therefrom, depending on the type of mailing; thus one set of plates takes care of the several types of mailing handled by the organization. (Sci-Tech Group is working now on coding plates for Headquarters.—Ed.). Envelopes are used because usually material in addition to headlights is included in the mailing (it might be well for Sci-Tech to do a similar job of distributing leaflets and pamphlets which should prove of interest to a fair proportion of its members). The necessary sorting, counting and tying into bundles for the P.O. can be done in almost unbelievable short time. If only one publication is to be mailed, mailing permitt, return address etc., can be included as part of the offset. With a small group of from about 3 to about a dozen the work can be done by efficient assembly line methods at the same time that the group are having a pleasant business or social chat.

As to subscription to STN: Maybe I should subscribe. How much material on subjects mentioned in this letter is included in STN? At present I subscribe to no publications. I have no quarrel with STN; however I think the ST group (and other groups also) should get a larger appropriation from the National SLA kitty rather than placing assessments on members.

As to volunteer help: It is my opinion that among SLA members (at least in the NY area) there is too much tendency to have banquets (dinner meetings), "meet the proper persons", consider it beneath professional "dignity" to do any honest work, expect to have all work done by paid help, etc. and too little effort to make provision for and welcome and respect volunteer help. It is also my opinion that volunteer labor on a subject in which one is interested is a pleasure rather than a chore PROVIDED one is not doing work for which some other member of the organization is being paid (either money or credit (prestige)) and PROVIDED one is not treated as a social outcast because he or she does something worthwhile. As to ST activities: en-

closed are comments accompanying reply to recent Hoffman questionnaire. Please read the item "Rapid Selector..." appearing on the latter part of p. 1012 of Nov. 1949 Electrical Engineering. (Please read SCI-TECH NEWS Sept. 1949 p. 9—Ed.). I have been aware of the progress of this and other developments for some time and have been quite critical of technical librarians for being lax by NOT (1) following closely the progress of these developments (2) giving proper publicity to these developments.

There is too much increasing emphasis on the desirability of a library degree. I EMPHATICALLY do not feel that a library degree should be valued in ST libraries; technical education is far more valuable, tho not necessary. (These statements are based on observations during 10 years of employment in an engineering library and sufficient years at library school and engineering school — taken almost simultaneously — to procure a bachelors degree from each during the past year). It might be well for ST to investigate the situation with a possibility of assuring that emphasis is put on ability to operate a ST library rather than the (UNCORRELATED with preceding) amount of formal schooling.

Many new machines and other technical developments have a value to library workers. Since ST members should be better qualified than other SLA members, it would seem well for ST to take the lead in keeping in touch with these developments and reducing their findings to news items in Special Libraries. Such things as pasting machines, \$100,000 grant by Carnegie Corp. to M.I.T. for what amounted to research in library techniques (end of 1947), development of the Rapid Selector and many others are little known to librarians and library workers although many would be of great interest and/or practical value to them.

In connection with keeping its members informed of recent technological developments which might have a bearing on library work would it not be practical for ST to set up a clearing house for ideas and suggestions from ST members and others concerning further developments or applications of such machines, etc.? (Send us the ideas and suggestions; we'll be glad to clear them.—Ed.).

ST could educate its members concerning present and prospective results of present and prospective action taken by local and national SLA officers and meetings. (Doggonit, subscribe to SCI-TECH NEWS—Ed.). At least one former ST member quit SLA due primarily to practice of holding expensive dinner meetings, NYChapt. and NYST continue expensive dinner meetings but don't consult membership desires.

Witness of executive board C and BL (Constitution and By-Laws—Ed.) discussion at NY spring institute left impression that no member of board exhibited intelligence or interest in making SLA valuable to its members and that some were definite liability and/or menace to SLA.

As to answer to this rather lengthy correspondence (condensed to one quarter here—Ed.): I am glad to discuss any of the herein mentioned with those sincerely interested, I prefer talking to letter writing as the latter is quite time consuming. I am not especially interested in taking part in "meet the proper people" or "pouring oil on troubled waters" correspondence and would greatly appreciate having any such correspondence so labeled so as to save me the trouble of trying to read between the lines.

Sincerely,

A New York Sci-Tech member

Editor's Note: No comment.

Correction.

In Miss Weitlauf's letter on the last page of our September issue we incorrectly spoke of the "Directory of Translations". This should have been Directory of Translators. This was formerly a Group project in charge of Mr. Harold Oatfield. Since the June Convention, it has been an Association project under the direction of Mr. Wayne Kalenich, Southwest Research Institute, P. O. Box 2296, San Antonio 6, Texas. Although Mr. Kalenich also is in charge of the Union List of Translations these are two separate projects. See report on another page.

When we got all the news together there was no more space than this and page 9 for Abstracts from the ACS Fall meeting of the Division of Chem. Literature. Your solution: Join the Division; abstracts come to you free before the meeting, (how to join: SCI-TECH NEWS, May 1949, p. 2).

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